

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently amended) A sole for an article of footwear, the sole having an outer surface comprising an upper side and a lower side and comprising:
 - a foamed sole element; and
 - at least one support element, the foamed sole element and the at least one support element comprising ~~made of~~ a common polymer-based material, the support element being harder than the foamed sole element and disposed below at least a portion of the foamed sole element, each of the foamed sole element and the support element forming at least a portion of one of the upper side and the lower side of the outer surface of the sole; wherein at least one of the foamed sole element and the at least one support element comprises a partially vulcanized preform comprising at least one cross-linking agent, the foamed sole element and the at least one support element each exhibiting a different initial mechanical property and being attached by co-vulcanization and wherein, after attachment, at least one of the foamed sole element and the at least one support element exhibits a change in the initial mechanical property.
11. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the polymer-based material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.
12. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the mechanical property is selected from the group consisting of hardness, stiffness, resiliency, and compliancy.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises:
 - a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 25%;
 - at least one peroxide; and
 - a co-agent.

15. (Original) The sole of claim 14, wherein the co-agent is selected from the group consisting of acrylates and isocyanates.
16. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the sole element comprises:
 - a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 27%; and
 - at least one peroxide.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no less than about Shore A 80 to 95.
19. (Original) The sole of claim 10, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no greater than about a Shore D range.
20. (Currently amended) An article of footwear comprising:
 - an outsole;
 - an inner sole;
 - an upper; and
 - a midsole comprising a foamed midsole element and at least one support element, the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element comprising ~~made of~~ a common polymer-based material, the support element being harder than the foamed midsole element and disposed below at least a portion of the foamed midsole element, wherein at least one of the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element comprises a partially vulcanized preform comprising at least one cross-linking agent, the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element each exhibiting a different initial mechanical property and being attached by co-vulcanization and wherein, after attachment, at least one of the foamed midsole element and the at least one support element exhibits a change in the initial mechanical property.
- 21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The sole of claim 10 wherein the support element exhibits increased hardness.
- 25-27. (Cancelled)
28. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20 wherein the support element exhibits increased hardness.
29. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the polymer-based material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.
30. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the mechanical property is selected from the group consisting of hardness, stiffness, resiliency, and compliancy.
31. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises:
- a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 25%;
 - at least one peroxide; and
 - a co-agent.
32. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 31, wherein the co-agent is selected from the group consisting of acrylates and isocyanates.
33. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the foamed midsole element comprises:
- a vinyl acetate content of about 18% to about 27%; and
 - at least one peroxide.
34. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no less than about Shore A 80 to 95.
35. (Previously presented) The article of footwear of claim 20, wherein the support element comprises a hardness of no greater than about a Shore D range.